

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:TJCAROLAN:PDW/MDRAPER

APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER

S/S: JLHOGANSON

NEA/ARP:FDICKMAN

DOD/OSD/ISA:COL. RTHOMPSON

PM/SAS:DKEENE (INFORMED)

DOD/DSAA:LT.COL. CPERKINS (SUBS)

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O P 290214Z APR 76 ZFF5

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

INFO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 103204 TOSEC 110312

EXDIS, FOR AMBASSADORS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, JO, US, SA

SUBJ: JORDAN AIR DEFENSE

REF: JIDDA 3060

1. FOR AMBASSADOR PORTER: YOU WILL NOTE FROM SEPTTEL THAT WE HAVE FOUND IT POSSIBLE TO EXTEND VALIDITY OF EXISTING CONTRACTS FOR PRODUCTION OF JORDANIAN AIR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT FOR A LIMITED PERIOD BEYOND APRIL 30, IF NECESSARY, IN ORDER TO ALLOW ADDITIONAL TIME FOR SAUDIS TO RESPOND TO FUNDING PROPOSAL CONVEYED BY YOU TO PRINCE FAHD ON APRIL 20. LIKE AMB. PICKERING, YOU WILL HAVE TO JUDGE WHEN TO INFORM THE SAUDIS OF THIS EXTRAORDINARY STEP. WE TRUST YOU WILL DO SO IN A FASHION THAT WILL NOT ENCOURAGE UNDUE DELAYS IN THEIR

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FINAL DECISION. YOU COULD EMPHASIZE (A) THAT IT REPRESENTS

FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO RESOLVING THE FUNDING PROBLEM IN A MANNER SATISFACTORY TO THE SAUDIS AND JORDANIANS ALIKE AND THAT WOULD PRECLUDE KING HUSSEIN FROM RESORTING TO SOVIET-SUPPLIED ARMS; AND (B) THAT IN VIEW OF WHAT WE KNOW TO BE SAG CONCERNS IN THIS REGARD, WE REMAIN HOPEFUL OF RECEIVING AN EARLY SAUDI RESPONSE TO OUR PROPOSAL.

2. FYI: BOTH YOU AND AMBASSADOR PICKERING SHOULD KNOW THAT DOD ACTUALLY HAS AGREED TO EXTEND THE APRIL 30 DEADLINE FOR UP TO 30 RPT 30 DAYS, BUT ONLY AS LONG AS THERE IS A REASONABLE PROSPECT THE SAUDIS WILL COME THROUGH WITH DOLS 520 MILLION. WE THINK YOU WILL AGREE, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS NOT IN OUR INTEREST TO CONVEY THE 30-DAY INFO TO THE SAUDIS OR JORDANIANS AND THAT WE SHOULD INSTEAD MAKE CLEAR THAT THE POSTPONEMENT WILL BE REVIEWED ON A DAY-BY-DAY BASIS, WHICH IS OF COURSE ALSO TRUE. END FYI. SISCO

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